National Project Construction Corporation

*356. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Union Government have received any plan for the revival of the National Projects Construction Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). A proposal for restructuring its capital base has been received from the National Projects Construction Corporation. It envisages an increase in the authorised share capital from Rs. 30 crores to Rs. 60 crores, conversion of existing Government loans of Rs. 23.94 crores (outstanding loan as on 31.3.1991) into equity, waiver of interest and penal interest amounted to Rs. 9.07 crores on the loans proposed to be converted to equity, budgetary support of Rs. 40 crores as loan during a period of three years for purchase of eauipments, repayment of inter-corporate loans and moratorium for repayment and waiver of interest thereon for a period of 3 years. It also envisages enhancement of the Bank guarantee limit from Rs. 35 crores to Rs. 60 crores and a Government guarantee for cash credit limit of Rs. 20 crores.

(c) The Government has given an additional support of Rs. 6 crores as a loan to meet urgent requirement of cash for important works and for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Schemes. Further, Management Coordination Cell head by Additional Secretary (Water Resources) has been constituted to monitor its performance and advise it on management affairs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that Government has given an additional support of Rs. 6 crores to National Project Construction Corporation to meet the urgent requirement of cash for important works. I would like to know whether there was any arrangement for the monitoring of the work of this corporation prior to this proposal and if it was there, which work has been considered important for which only Rs. 6 crore have been approved and which works have not been considered important? Is there any scheme of Bihar under which construction work was in progress and which has also been considered important?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no work of this corporation has been considered unimportant. They had a shortage of working capital and they had made a demand of Rs. 6 crore to the Government of India which, after consultation with the finance Ministry, has been made available to them. The corporation is working to better its performance and for this purpose it had submitted various proposals such as increasing the working capital and the authorised capital, conversion of Government loans into quite and seeking 40 crores budgetary support etc. All these suggestion are under consideration of the Government.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is that why this corporation has not been given the amount asked for by it? We the people of Bihar know this thing very well that Bihar is very backward in the matter of water resources whereas the hon. Minister says that there are number of schemes for Bihar. It does not seem to be correct. In the matter of irrigation Bihar is lagging far behind as compared to the entire nation. Even then, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether it is a fact that the cut effected in the amount asked for by the corporation will not have an adverse affect on the efficiency of the corporation ? Because Corporation with a view to bring about efficiency and to better its performance had

made a demand to allow it to increase working capital and authorised capital and to convert Government loans into eqiety etc. These demands of the corporation were considered genuine and it was provided only Rs. 6 crore. But if we look at all the scheme and proposals of this corporation is requirement is that of Rs. 1 Arab. Now only Rs. 6 crore have been approved, whether it will not affect its efficiency and if so, would you consider to sanctioning more funds for it.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKHLA: As I said, their immediate need has been met. So their work will not stop. But as regards other demands made by him to strengthen the financial position of the corporation, I would like to say that these are big demands and will have bearing on our financial position as a whole. That is why a decision will be taken after giving if a full thought.

As far as the scheme of Bihar are concerned, I would like to give assurance to the hon. Members that if we consider these schemes it will not affect the N.C.C. works being carried out in Bihar.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Is it a fact that Ninety percent projects have not been completed within the stipulated time? The projects are generally delayed as a result of which their cost of construction escalates. Will the Government try to check it and complete within scheduled time?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKHLA: This is correct that many project are not completed within the prescribed time, which causes loss to the nation. We try our best to complete the projects in time with the help of the State and Central Government. At times this is possible, but most of the time it is not possible. It shall be our continuous endeayour that whatever projects we take up in hand should be completed within the prescribed time so that the loss is avoided.

[*English*]

Telephone Charges

*357. KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit earned from telephone during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to reduce telephone charges to enable the poor to avail of telephone facilities;

(c) if so, details in this regard?

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The net profit i.e., surplus earned by the Department of Telecommunication from various Telecom Services during the last three years is as under:

Year	*Amount of surplus (In Crores of Rs.)*
1988-89 -	822.87
1989-90 -	1058.03
1990-91 -	1327.57

(b) There is no proposal to reduce the charges.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of immense pleasure that they have earned profit. I would like to ask the Government whether it would untilise this amounts of profit in reducing the telephone charges to in removing the complaints or in increasing the facilities?